

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2677

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

RUESSNQXAMEMBASSY OSLO 1868

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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1. SUMMARY. AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH VICTOR FEATHER OF BRITISH TUC FOUND LATTER VAGUE AS TO PRECISE VALUE OF CONTINUED EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONTACT, BUT DETERMINE NEVERTHELESS TO PURSUE SAME. BROWN SUGGESTED TUC/AFL-CIO MEETING TO DISCUSS MERITS OF THESE CONTACTS BUT DOUBTS FEATHER PREPARED FOLLOW THROUGH. BROWN BELIEVES
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FEATHER MAY BE VICTIM OF "INTELLECTUAL BULLYING" OF TUC'S

LEFTIST LEADER JACK JONES. BOWN APPEARS TO BE SHOWING COMMENDABLE RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH EUROPEAN LABOR LEADERS BENT ON REPLAYING DETENTE AT INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION LEVEL. END SUMMARY

2. EVEN IRVING BROWN OF AFL-CIO IS BAFFLED BY BRITISH TUC OBSTINATE ATTITUDE FAVORING EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE. DURING LUNCHEON AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE 20 AUGUST BROWN REPEATED ACCOUNT OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO LONDON AND LONG DISCUSSION WITH VIC FEATHERS OF TUC. WHILE SEEKING TO ASSURE BROWN THAT HE IS FULLY AWARE THAT "RUSSIANS CANNOT BE TRUSTED" AND RUSSIAN UNIONS POLITICAL ORGANS OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT, FEATHER STUCK TO NEBULOUS NOTION THAT SOMETHING "GOOD" CAN COME OUT OF EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONTACTS. PRESSED HARD TO DEFINE THAT "GOOD", EATHER REFERRED VAGUELY TO EXPANSION OF TRADE AND OPPORTUNITIES SUCH CONTACTS OFFER TO KNOW BETTER SOVIET SOCIETY AND LEADERS.

3. SEEING THAT HE WAS GETTING NOWHERE WITH FEATHER AND ENCOURAGED BY HIS REPEATED STATEMENTS THAT TUC IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL CLOSE RELATIONS WITH AFL-CIO, BROWN SUGGESTED THAT SPECIAL MEETING BE ORGANIZED BETWEEN TUC AND AFL-CIO FOR A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POINTS OF VIEW REGARDING EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS. ALTHOUGH FEATHER THOUGHT THIS GOOD IDEA, BROWN DOUBTS THAT HE WILL BE PREPARED TO GO THROUGH WITH SUCH A MEETING.

4. BROWN COULD THINK OF ONLY TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR TUC ATTITUDES. ONE STEMS FROM GENERALLY ACCEPTED VIEW THAT TUC HAS COME UNDER CONTROL OF LEFTISTS WHO SEEM TO ENGAGE IN "INTELLECTUAL BULLYING" AGAINST SUCH ELEMENTS AS VIC FEATHER. THE OTHER EXPLANATION MAY BE FOUND IN UNCHARACTERISTIC VEHEMENCE WITH WHICH FEATHER SPOKE AGAINST THE GERMANS. BROWN WONDERS, THEREFORE, IF FEATHER'S PERSONAL ATTITUDES MAY NOT BE INFLUENCED BY STRONG ANTI-GERMAN FEELINGS OR SENSE OF COMPETITION BETWEEN UK AND FRG.

5. BROWN HAD CONTACTS ALSO WITH TUC OPPOSITION LEADERS, PRIMARILY SCHAFER OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNION (A FORMER COMMUNIST, SAYS BROWN), WHO INTENDS TO SPEAK ON ISSUE OF EAST-WEST CONTACTS AT NEXT MONTH'S ANNUAL TUC CONFERENCE.
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ACCORDING TO BROWN, SCHAFER HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT RESULTS OF HIS SPEECH AND IS CONVINCED THERE WILL BE A LONG UPHILL EFFORT TO GET TUC BACK ON A MORE REASONABLE STAND.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE IMPRESSED BY BROWN'S REFLECTIVE ATTITUDE ON EUR LABOR DEVELOPMENTS AND HIS AWARENESS OF NEED UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS TO RELY ON PATIENT ARGUMENT AND PERSUASION IN TALKING WITH EUROPEAN LABOR LEADERS, SUCH AS THOSE OF TUC,

WHO SOMEHOW CONSIDER THEMSELVES COMPELLED TO MATCH EAST-WEST
DETENTE AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL WITH INCREASED EAST-WEST LABOR
CONTACTS.
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